

AF heritage should be passed down

By CMSgt. Jim Calcutt
Senior enlisted advisor

Heritage – Webster's Dictionary defines it as "something passed down from preceding generations, tradition."

Using that definition you might think that the Air Force has not been a separate service long enough to have much "heritage."

In fact, nothing could be further from the truth – our Air Force's short history has a lot of heritage contained in it.

There is currently a series of projects in progress at RAF Lakenheath which are designed to promote our Air Force heritage – the air power heritage. The projects are diverse, and they cover a wide range of accomplishments. They highlight contributions made by the Liberty Wing, by the Royal Air Force, and by many unsung heroes, people who were living the Air Force core values of service before self and excellence in all we do. Here's a quick overview of each project, explaining why it was selected and what you can do to help.

Battle of Britain Memorial Stone

Work is currently in progress to construct a stone monument dedicated to "the airmen of many nations who flew with the RAF during the Battle of Britain and soared into the heavens that we might live." The monument will be

a large gray granite stone and will depict four aircraft used during the Battle of Britain, as well as an inscription dedicated to those who gave so much during "Britain's finest hour." It will be located in the Wings of Liberty Air Park and is scheduled to be dedicated during this year's Battle of Britain Reunion.

Medal of Honor Memorial

The Lakenheath Top Three Association sponsors a project to construct a monument to the members of the Army Air Corps and Air Force who have been decorated with our nation's highest military honor – the Medal of Honor. The design was recently

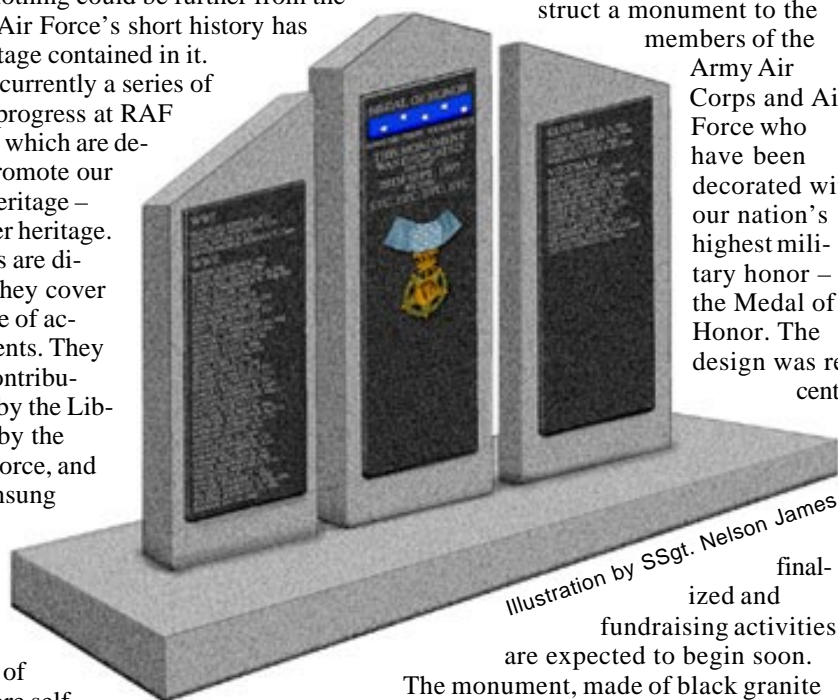


Illustration by SSgt. Nelson James
finalized and fundraising activities are expected to begin soon.

The monument, made of black granite and bearing the names of our Medal of Honor recipients, will also be located in the Wings of Liberty Air Park. The proposed dedication is Sept. 18, 1997, our Air Force's 50th birthday.

"The Top Three Association chose to sponsor this memorial because it's important we recognize the airmen who have been awarded the Medal of Honor," said MSgt Jesse Turner, Top Three Association president. "Although it's proving to be a lot of hard work, we believe it's worth it."

Residence Hall Dedications

In an effort to rekindle our enlisted heritage recognition, we will soon be dedicating six of our enlisted residence halls to enlisted people who made noteworthy accomplishments. There will be some names you recognize, but there will be others you may not. The intent is to highlight Air Force enlisted people who demonstrated the Air Force core values and made a significant impact on our Air Force.

48th FW Historical Project

This project will highlight the history of the Liberty Wing and its many contributions to the preservation of world peace. The first phase of the project is to establish a wing history display in the officers' club. Displays will trace the history of the wing, the units assigned, and the people who "made it happen." Follow-on projects include a "history wall" that will consist of a mobile display that can be used at events throughout the wing.

The preservation of our history is one of the most important things we can do. It's important that the men and women who follow us know where we came from, what we did, our accomplishments, and our disappointments. Although I'm particularly interested in bringing enlisted heritage and history to the forefront, any project or idea that means we tell the public a little bit more of our story has my vote. When we are finished, I hope our enlisted force will know the name of the first enlisted pilot, the first female chief master sergeant, the first woman to enlist in our Air Force, and why the names Jensen, Thomas, Estabrooks, Tuttle, and Robbins should mean something to them. Our history is as important as today's mission; preserving it for future generations is the right thing to do.

Flightline drivers responsible for safety

By MSgt. Glenn Cobb
Airfield management chief

To all licensed flightline vehicle operators, we are all ultimately responsible for flightline safety.

To ensure that the flightline remains a safe environment for aircraft and vehicular operations, we must all practice good safety habits.

All members operating

flightline vehicles should be physically, mentally and emotionally capable of performing their assigned tasks. If, for any reason, you don't feel capable of performing flightline driving tasks, notify your supervisor immediately.

As the summer approaches, we're all in more of a hurry to finish our daily tasks so we can go free to enjoy the weather. Do keep in mind, though, that a few

extra minutes of flightline safety awareness can save additional work and possibly even save lives.

Things to remember

- ☐ When conducting foreign object damage checks, ensure your vehicle is switched off and parking brake is set, unless the driver remains in the vehicle.
- ☐ Exercise caution in FOD-check areas.

☐ Be aware of vehicles coming in the opposite direction, as well as from behind you as you conduct your FOD check.

☐ Bottom line: Aircraft have priority in every situation.

Flightline driving mishaps must be reported to airfield management at Ext. 4186.

Direct questions to squadron vehicle control NCOs or officers, then to airfield management at Ext. 4186.